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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL <small>(Only for nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No.	GECAN 3194
	First Named Inventor or Application Identifier	W. R. Hugh Fife
	Title	BRACKET ASSEMBLY FOR A DYNAMOELECTRIC MACHINE
	Express Mail Label No.	EL069308944US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS <small>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents</small>		ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) <small>(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)</small>		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)	
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification <small>(Preferred arrangement set forth below)</small> - Descriptive title of the Invention - Cross References to Related Applications - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D - Reference to Microfiche Appendix - Background of the Invention - Brief Summary of the Invention - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed) - Detailed Description - Claim(s) - Abstract of the Disclosure	[Total Pages] 9	7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission <small>(If applicable, all necessary)</small> a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies	
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 USC 113)	[Total Sheets] 2	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS	
4. Oath or Declaration	[Total Pages] 1	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))	
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy)		9. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney <small>(when there is an assignee)</small>	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) <small>(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)</small> [Note Box 5 below]		10. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable)	
i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).		11. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations	
<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporation by Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked) The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.		12. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment	
		13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) <small>(Should be specifically itemized)</small>	
		14. <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed in prior application, <small>(PTO/SB/09-12)</small> Status still proper and desired	
		15. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <small>(If foreign priority is claimed)</small>	
		16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 pgs.) (For identification of inventor only Express Mail Certificate	
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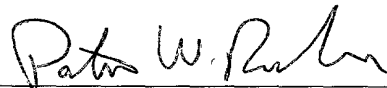
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Date of Mailing: June 13, 2000

I certify that the attached utility patent application of **W. R. HUGH FIFE** for **BRACKET ASSEMBLY FOR A DYNAMOELECTRIC MACHINE**, including:

- Five (5) pages of specification; three (3) pages of claims; one (1) page of abstract
- Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 pgs) (for identification only)
- Two (2) sheets of drawings
- Patent Application Transmittal (1 page)
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BRACKET ASSEMBLY FOR A DYNAMOELECTRIC MACHINE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to dynamoelectric machines, and more particularly, to support brackets for bearing assemblies in dynamoelectric machines.

Dynamoelectric machines typically include a stator and a rotor positioned within a bore of the stator. In certain dynamoelectric machines, energization of the stator causes the rotor to rotate with respect to the stator. In other dynamoelectric machines, rotation of the rotor with respect to the stator causes an electric current to be generated. The rotor typically includes an extended rotor shaft rotatably mounted upon bearings. These bearings are generally mounted to a machine housing via bearing support brackets.

Bearing support brackets are subject to static and dynamic stresses from supporting the dynamoelectric machine rotor and associated components coupled to the rotor shaft. In use, a varying degree of vibration is experienced by the bearing support brackets due to varying loads and operating conditions. Typically, bearing support brackets are specifically designed for use with a particular dynamoelectric machine to avoid possible excitation of the brackets at their natural frequencies. These brackets, however, become excessively heavy and costly as the dynamoelectric machine size increases.

Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a low cost bracket having a stiffness sufficient to avoid excitation thereof at selected undesirable frequencies.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In an exemplary embodiment, a dynamoelectric machine includes a bearing support bracket assembly including a base plate and a bracket support assembly connected thereto. The bracket support assembly includes a curved support member contacting a first end plate and a second end plate. At least one support plate extends from the support member and contacts the first end plate and the second end plate. In addition, the bracket support assembly includes a side plate opposite the support member that extends between the base plate and the support plate. The

support plate is separated from the base plate by a distance and contacts the support member, the end plates and the side plate.

Attachment of the bracket support assembly to the base plate reinforces the bearing support bracket assembly and provides a configuration effectively achieving the desired natural frequency which is unlikely to be excited in use.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a known dynamoelectric machine;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a bearing support bracket attached to a dynamoelectric machine; and

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the bearing support bracket shown in Figure 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 illustrates a known dynamoelectric machine 10, the construction and operation of which is well known, and with which the present invention may be practiced. It is contemplated, however, that the present invention is equally applicable to other types of dynamoelectric machines, and the description of machine 10 is therefore provided for illustrative purposes only rather than by way of limitation. Machine 10 includes a frame 12, a first bearing support bracket assembly 14 coupled to frame 12 at a first end 16, and a second bearing support bracket assembly (not shown) coupled to frame 12 at a second end 18.

Motor assembly 10 also includes a stator 20 and a rotor 22. Rotor 22 includes a rotor core (not shown) and a rotor shaft 24 extending through the rotor core. Stator 20 is mounted in frame 12 and includes a bore (not shown) extending therethrough. Rotor 22 is rotatably mounted in frame 12 with the rotor core extending through the stator bore and rotor shaft 24 rotatably supported by a bearing assembly 26. Bearing assembly 26 is supported by first bearing support bracket assembly 14.

Figure 2 illustrates an exemplary frame 30, such as for dynamoelectric machine 10 (shown in Figure 1), with which the invention may be practiced. A bearing support bracket assembly 32 is mounted, coupled, or otherwise attached to frame 30 and supports a bearing assembly 34. Bearing assembly 34 includes a bore

36 which receives, and allows rotation of, a rotor shaft, such as rotor shaft 24 (shown in Figure 1). It is contemplated that the present invention may be practiced with a variety of bearing assemblies similar or dissimilar to bearing assembly 34. Therefore, bearing assembly 34 is illustrated for exemplary purposes only and is not intended to
5 limit the invention to any particular type of bearing assembly. It is further contemplated that other frames may be used to receive bearing support bracket assembly 30 within the scope of the present invention.

Figure 3 illustrates bracket assembly 32 including a base plate 40 having a bearing mounting surface 42. Bracket assembly 32 also includes a bracket
10 support assembly 44 including a support member 46, a first end plate 48 and a second end plate 50. Support member 46 is a semi-annular ring extending between first end plate 48 and second end plate 50. In an alternative embodiment, support member 46 is fabricated from a plurality of members to form a curved section that extends between first end plate 48 and second end plate 50. End plates 48 and 50 extend
15 substantially perpendicularly from a base plate outer surface 52. In one embodiment, plates 48 and 50 are substantially flat and contact support member 46.

In one embodiment, a first support plate 54 extends from first end plate 48 and support member 46 and is spaced a distance (not shown) from base plate 40. A first intermediate end plate 56 and a first side plate 58 extend from base plate 40 to
20 first support plate 54. A first enclosure 60 is formed by base plate 40, first support plate 54, first end plate 48, first intermediate end plate 56 and first side plate 58. First enclosure 60 has a hollow space therein. A second support plate 62 extends from second end plate 50 and support member 46 and is spaced a distance (not shown) from base plate 40. A second intermediate end plate 64 and a second side plate 66
25 extend from base plate 40 to second support plate 62. A second enclosure 68 is formed by base plate 40, second support plate 62, second end plate 50, second intermediate end plate 64 and second side plate 66. Second enclosure 68 has a hollow space therein. Support member 46 defines an inner edge of first support plate 54 and second support plate 62.

30 First support plate 54 and second support plate 62 are separated by a base plate intermediate region or arc segment 70. Enclosures 60 and 68 reinforce bracket assembly 32 and provide a configuration effectively achieving the desired natural frequency which is unlikely to be excited in use. In one embodiment, first and second intermediate end plates 56 and 64 are substantially flat and extend

substantially radially from support member 46. In addition, first side plate 58 and second side plate 66 are substantially flat. In alternative embodiments, plates 48, 50, 56, 58, 64 and 66 are not substantially flat.

5 A base plate intermediate region 70 is substantially centered, or positioned equidistant from first end plate 48 and second end plate 50. In one embodiment, support plates 54 and 62 and base plate 40 are substantially planar and base plate 40 is substantially parallel to support plates 54 and 62. In an alternative embodiment, a third support plate extends across base plate intermediate region 70 and forms a third enclosure. In a further alternative embodiment, a single support
10 plate extends from first end plate 48 to second end plate 50. In still further alternative embodiments, any number of support plates can be utilized to extend wholly or partially between first end plate 48 and second end plate 50.

The stiffness of bracket assembly 32 is altered by altering the size of enclosures 60 and 68. Bracket assembly 32 is stiffened by positioning support plates
15 54 and 62 further from base plate 40. In addition, the stiffness of bracket assembly 32 is altered by altering the thickness of plates 40, 48, 50, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64 and 66 and support member 46.

Bracket assembly 32 is fabricated by connecting support member 46, end plate 48, intermediate end plate 56, and side plate 58 to base plate 40 and support
20 plate 54 by welding. Similarly, support member 46, end plate 50, intermediate end plate 64, and side plate 66 are connected to base plate 40 and support plate 62 by welding. Alternatively, the connections are other than by welding.

In an alternative embodiment, bracket assembly 32 is fabricated by casting a single plate having a substantially flat portion and an incorporated stiffening
25 portion. The plate is thinner at the bottom and becomes thicker towards the top. In one embodiment, the transition between the flat portion and the stiffening portion is gradual. In an alternative embodiment, the transition between the flat portion and the stiffening portion is substantially immediate.

While one exemplary embodiment has been described, it is
30 contemplated that other shapes of bracket support assembly 44 and relative positioning of base intermediate region 70 are used in alternative embodiments while achieving the benefits of the present invention.

In practice, bracket assembly 32 is subject to static and dynamic stresses from supporting a dynamoelectric machine rotor structure and associated components coupled to the machine. A varying degree of vibration is experienced by bracket assembly 32 due to varying loads and operating conditions. Bracket support assembly 44 adds stiffness to bracket assembly 32 and reinforces bracket assembly 32. Because of the reinforcement, bracket assembly 32 provides a configuration effectively achieving the desired natural frequency which is unlikely to be excited in use.

While the invention has been described in terms of various specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bracket assembly for a dynamoelectric machine comprising:

a base plate; and

a bracket support assembly extending from said base plate, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate, a second end plate and a support member connected to at least one support plate.
2. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said base plate is substantially planar.
3. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said support plate is substantially planar.
4. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said support plate is substantially parallel to said base plate.
5. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said bracket support assembly further comprises at least one intermediate end plate located between said first end plate and said second end plate.
6. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said at least one intermediate end plate is connected to said at least one support plate.
7. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said support member is curved, said at least one intermediate end extending radially from said support member.
8. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one support plate comprises a semi-annular plate.
9. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one support plate comprises a plurality of support plates.
10. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said base plate and said bracket support assembly form at least one enclosure.
11. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said bracket is symmetrical.

12. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said bracket support assembly comprises two support plates and an intermediate region extending between said support plates.

13. A bracket assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said intermediate region comprises an arc segment.

14. A dynamoelectric machine comprising:

a frame;

a stator disposed in said frame and comprising a stator bore;

a rotor within said stator bore and comprising a rotor shaft;

a bearing assembly for supporting said rotor shaft and facilitating rotational movement thereof; and

a bracket assembly coupled to said frame and receiving said rotor shaft, said bracket assembly comprising a base plate and a bracket support assembly extending therefrom, said bracket support assembly comprising a first end plate, a second end plate and a support member connected to at least one support plate.

15 A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said base plate is substantially planar.

16. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said at least one support plate is substantially planar.

17. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said base plate is substantially parallel to said at least one support plate.

18. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said bracket support assembly further comprises at least one intermediate end plate located between said first end plate and said second end plate.

19. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said bracket is symmetrical.

20. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said support member is curved, said at least one intermediate end extending radially from said support member.

21. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said at least one support plate comprises a semi-annular plate.

22. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said at least one support plate comprises a plurality of support plates.

23. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said base plate and said bracket support assembly form at least one enclosure.

24. A dynamoelectric machine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said bracket support assembly comprises two support plates and an intermediate region extending between said support plates.

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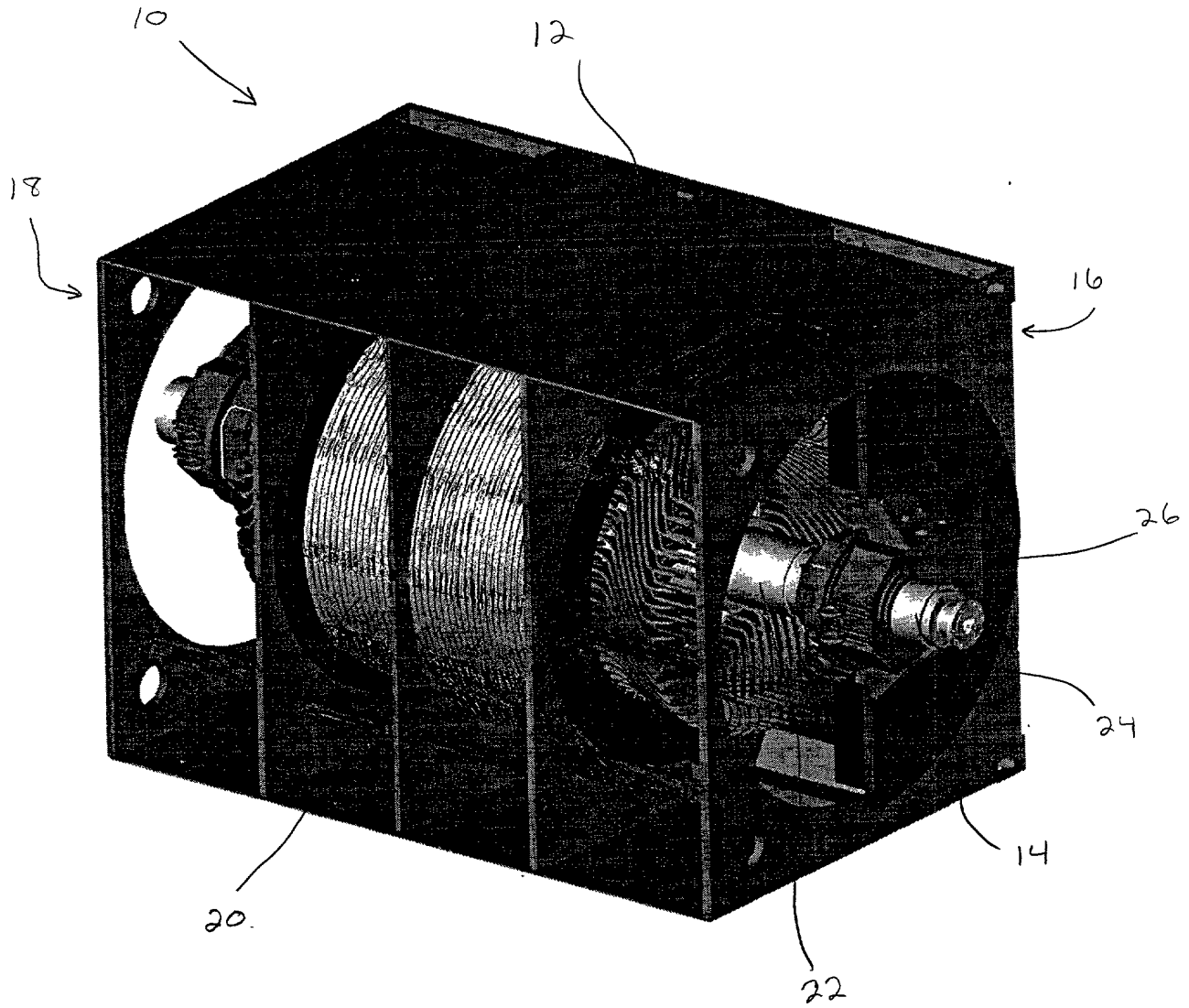


Figure 1

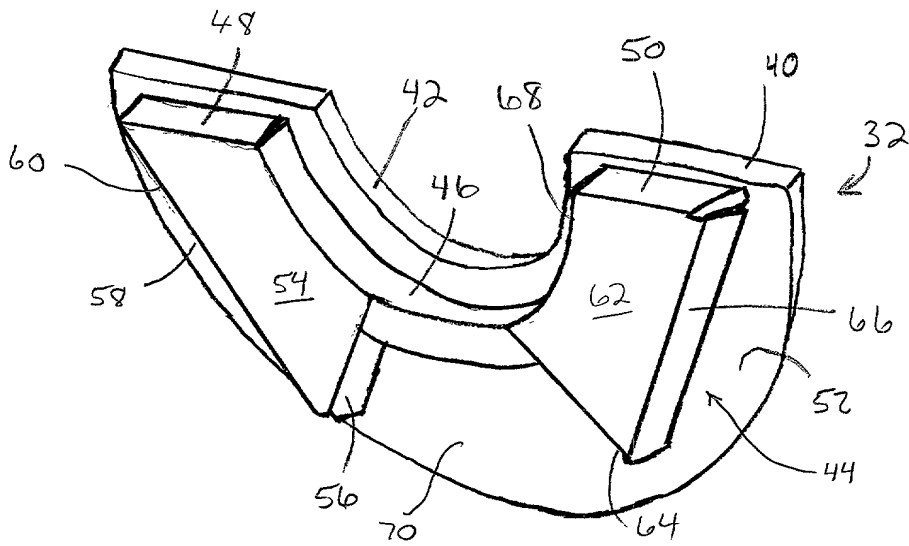


Figure 3

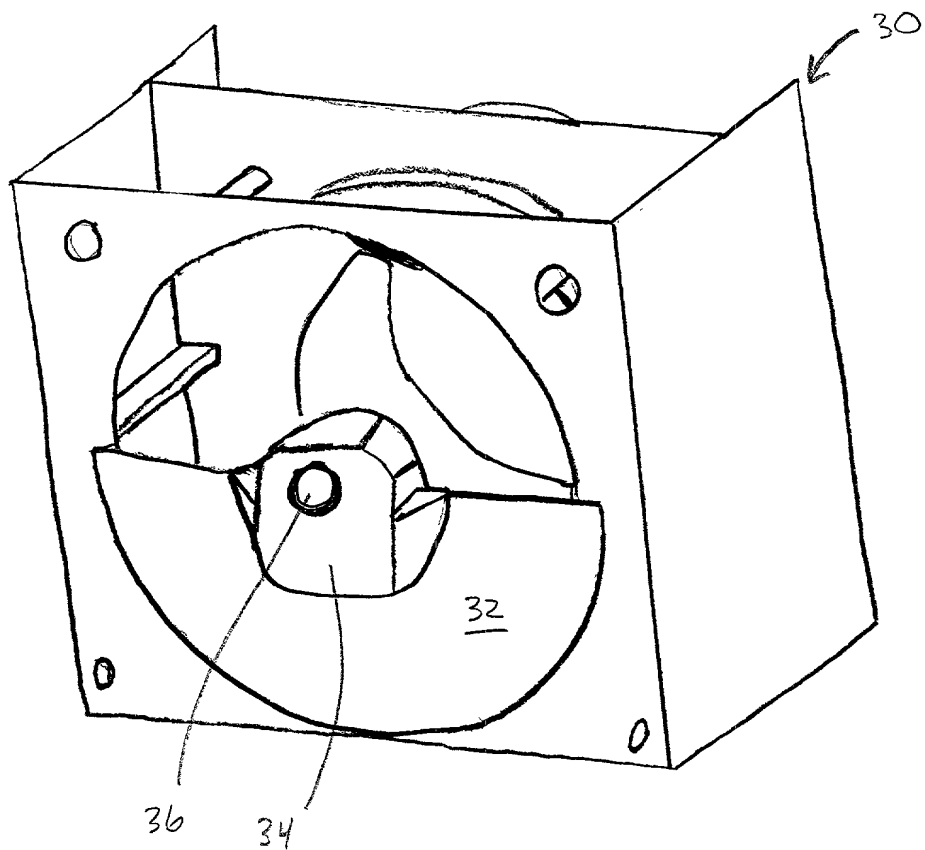


Figure 2

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**Attorney Docket No.****GECAN 3194**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **BRACKET ASSEMBLY FOR A DYNAMOELECTRIC MACHINE**, (Docket No. GECAN 3194) the specification of which:

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____,
and was amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status (patented, pending, abandoned)</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I hereby appoint Ronald E. Myrick, Reg. No. 26,315; Henry J. Policinski, Reg. No. 26,621; Jay L. Chaskin, Reg. No. 24,030; Henry I. Steckler, Reg. No. 24,139; and James W. Mitchell, Reg. No. 25602, all of General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Fairfield, CT 06431; Carl B. Horton, Reg. No. 34,622; Damian G. Wasserbauer, Reg. No. 34,749; Wayne O. Traynham, Reg. No. 29,872; and Dave S. Christensen, Reg. No. 40,955, all of General Electric Company, 41 Woodford Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062; and John S. Beulick, Reg. No. 33,338 and Patrick W. Rasche, Reg. No. 37,916, all of Armstrong Teasdale LLP, One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600, St. Louis, MO 63102, jointly, and each of them severally, my attorneys and attorney, with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls in connection with this application be addressed to the said

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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**Attorney Docket No.****GECAN 3194**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:Full Name: W. R. Hugh Fife

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Omeme, Ontario KOL2W0Citizenship: CanadaPost Office Address: R. R. 2, Omeme, Ontario CANADA KOL2W0**SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY:**

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: _____

Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____

THIRD JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY:

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: _____

Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____

FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY:

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY:

Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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